

**GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
ADVISORY TASK FORCE  
11<sup>TH</sup> MEETING SUMMARY  
Thursday, November 21, 2002**

**Prepared by:**

**Department of Natural Resources**

**Office of Conservation**

**Ground Water Management Staff**

## **Call To Order**

### **Advisory Task Force members in attendance:**

Karen Gautreaux, Governor's Office

Jess Barr, Cotton Producer's Association

Herschel L. Bourque, Louisiana Ground Water Association

Bill Branch, LSU Agricultural Center

Representative William Daniel, Representing the Speaker of the House

Dr. Rene` De Hon, University of Louisiana at Monroe, Geology Department

Charles R. Demas, USGS, Water Resources Division

Timothy W. Duex, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Department of Geology

Henry T. Graham, Jr., Louisiana Chemical Association

Bradford Hanson, Louisiana Geological Survey

Senator Fred Hoyt, Representing the President of the Senate

Robert Jackson, New Orleans Sewer and Water Board

Randy Lanctot, Louisiana Wildlife Federation

Steve Levine, Association of Public Utilities

Kyle McCann, Louisiana Farm Bureau

Eugene H. Owen, Municipal Water Association

Linda Curtis Sparks, Sabine River Authority

Charles W. Stahr, Louisiana Pulp and Paper Association

Linda M. Walker, League of Women Voters

### **Update on Staff Activities**

The Office of Conservation has received a total of 568 Water Well Information Sheets.

The usual items have been posted on the web site including meeting agendas, summaries and transcripts. Information concerning the initial public hearing on the Sparta Application has been posted. The transcript of the public hearing will be posted as soon as it becomes available, both in text and audio.

The initial public hearing on the Sparta Application was held on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> in Ruston. The comment period is open until December 19<sup>th</sup>; therefore, the hearing will not be discussed until after that date. The hearing was well attended by 350 to 500 citizens. Two newspaper articles were distributed regarding the hearing.

The staff attended several meetings including the Non-Point Source Committee at DEQ. Mr. Seiler met with Jay Grymes to discuss work that the Office of State Climatology has been doing in the development of a drought response plan and to discuss agency cooperation should a new water management agency be created by the legislature in the next session. Mr. Duplechin participated in a panel discussion at the Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association's Environmental Conservation Council Annual Meeting. He also made a presentation to the Louisiana Section of the Air & Waste Management Association at their fall conference. Mr. Duplechin also met with the Claiborne Parish Police Jury.

During the last month, the staff spent a lot of time preparing for the hearing held in Ruston, which included trips to Ruston to meet with Ruston High School administration. Mr. Duplechin is preparing a letter to Dr. Charles Scriber, thanking him for the use of the Ruston High School Auditorium. Mr. Duplechin also thanked Commissioner Durrett for his assistance in finding a location and in the setup of the auditorium.

### **Advisory Task Force Reports**

No reports.

### **Discussion of C. H. Fenstermaker Draft Part II**

The consultants reported the draft is in the final stages. The final draft is due the Monday after the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. One concern the Task Force members voiced was the limited amount of time they have in reviewing the final Part II. Mr. Duplechin reiterated the report from the Commission to the Legislative Oversight Committee is due December 31, 2002. Commissioner Gautreaux recommended circulating any questions and comments electronically.

### **New Business**

A draft Final Plan for the Implementation of a Comprehensive Water Management System was distributed. Mr. Duplechin reviewed the items required by the Legislature. The Advisory Task Force was asked to review the items to make sure they are included in the final report. Commissioner Gautreaux assured the Advisory Task Force that there would be more opportunities to meet with the legislators to discuss policy after the final draft is submitted. Senator Hoyt stated an extension of the deadline is possible. Representative Daniel offered to speak to the Governor about extending the deadline a couple of weeks

### **Public Question and Comment**

There were neither questions nor comments.

### **Schedule of Meetings**

Wednesday, December 4, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. – Joint meeting with the Ground Water Management Commission. The final Part II will be presented by C. H. Fenstermaker and Associates.

Friday, December 13, 2002 at 9:30 a.m. – Advisory Task Force Meeting

Friday, December 13, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. – Ground Water Management Commission Meeting